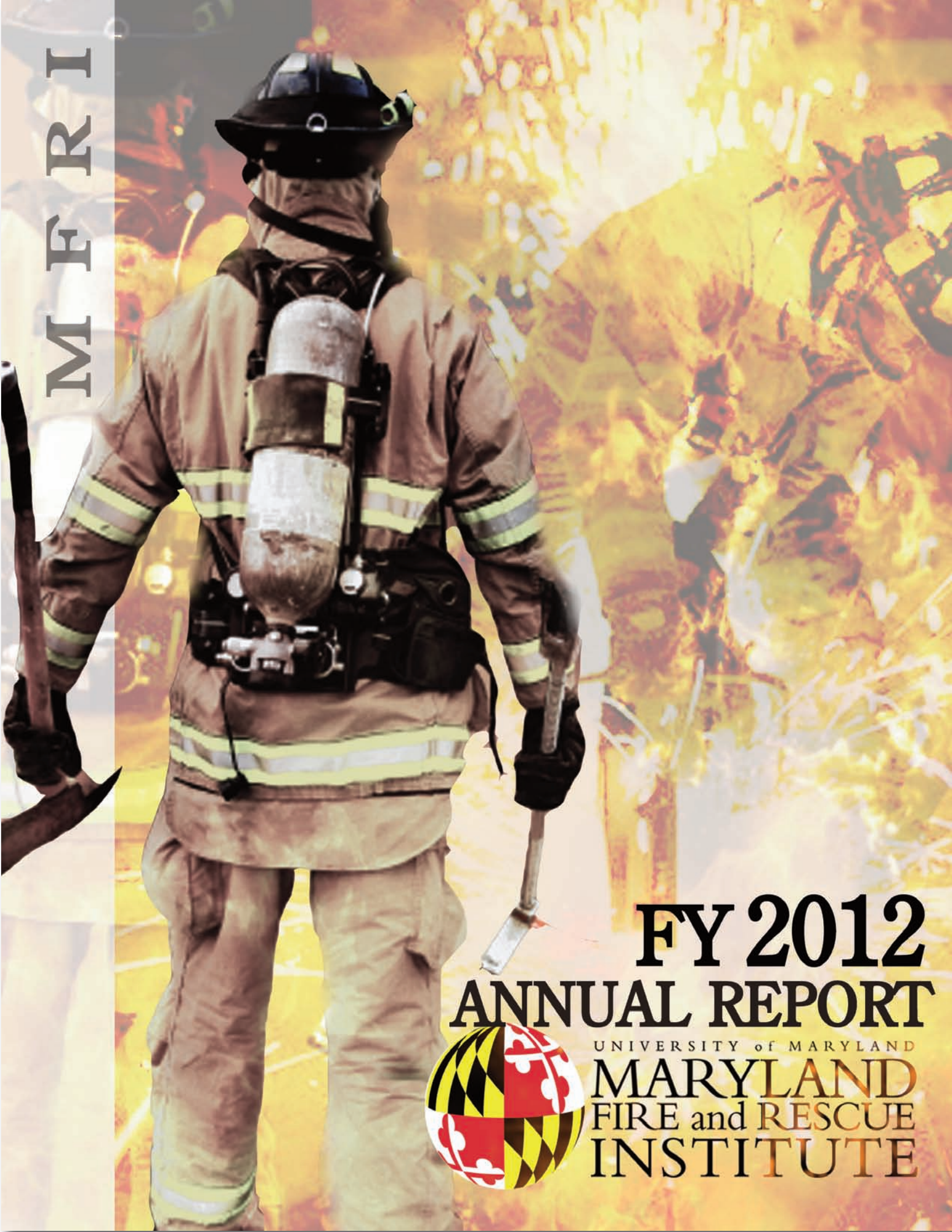


M F R I



FY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
MARYLAND
FIRE and RESCUE
INSTITUTE

NERTC Officially Opens

The new MFRI North East Regional Training Center officially opened on September 10, 2011. Director Edwards stated that “the improvements achieved by this project are very much needed in safety, environmental, and operational terms. MFRI now has a state-of-the-art, modern, and fully-functional fire training center that will serve primarily Cecil, Harford, and Baltimore Counties as well as Baltimore City for many decades.”

Guests were invited to tour the new training facility as fire department personnel and MFRI instructors demonstrated various fire and rescue techniques including fire suppression in the burn building and vehicle extrication. In addition, firefighters debuted

the use of the new automobile fire extinguishment prop.

House of Delegates Member James Malone Jr. (District 12A) remarked that in states of emergency such as those experienced during the recent hurricane, earthquake, and tropical storm, everyone’s first instinct is to call the fire department. Training for such emergencies in “a facility like the North East Regional Training Center will be advantageous to the state of Maryland; not only the firefighters, but all of the residents,” he said.



Student Medical Clearance

As of July 1, 2011, MFRI initiated a Health and Safety program to help ensure that students engaged in training requiring strenuous activity or the use of self-contained breathing apparatus are medically capable of engaging in these activities. The program requires written verification from a licensed health care professional that the student is authorized to perform the required duties. Medical clearance can be obtained in a variety of ways: departmental physical examinations; authorization by personal physicians; or completion of medical questionnaires. If the student chooses option three, the confidential questionnaire will be reviewed by MFRI’s medical director.



Fire Ops 101 Program



The Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association, IAFF Local 1619, in cooperation with the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, hosted the Second Annual Fire Ops 101 Program for state and local elected officials and media at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

This year, Gov. Martin O'Malley was able to attend the Fire Ops 101 program, view various demonstrations, and tour MFRI Headquarters facilities.

In addition to Gov. O'Malley, a number of elected officials and assistants and aides attended the event including Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker III, Howard County Executive Kenneth Ulman,

Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks, Maryland State Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Maryland State Delegate Justin Ross, Maryland Secretary of State John McDonough, and Communications Director for the Office of the County Executive of Prince George's County Barry Hudson. Media personnel from WJZ, WTOP, and the University of Maryland's Diamondback Newspaper also attended.

Participants were given the opportunity to wear turnout gear while completing the maze, participate in a live fire exercise, participate in a demonstration of hands-only CPR, and charge a hoseline to extinguish a live fire. Demonstrations by the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department's Technical Rescue Team, Fire Investigations Unit and Bomb Squad were also available.



Pro Board Site Review

The Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board, Inc. (MFSPQB) hosted the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications ProBoard Committee on Accreditation Site Review Team July 10-12, 2012. Every five years each entity that is accredited to issue ProBoard certification must go through a re-accreditation process to ensure that all the levels of certification meet its rigorous standards. The MFSPQB oversees the state certification system for fire service personnel and is comprised of a representative of each county, Baltimore City, and several statewide fire service organizations. It utilizes MFRI as the functional arm of the statewide operations and has adopted MFRI's policies and procedures in support of the accreditation criteria. MFRI and seven other agencies are MFSPQB delegated agencies (ATRA's). The MFSPQB is accredited for 47 certification titles and has issued over 116,000 certifications since 1991.



FY12 Statistics

Emergency Services Programs 1,679

FPS	1,115
SPS	316
CDs	161
Seminars	87

Students by Programs 34,327

FPS	23,864
SPS	5,979
CDs	2,433
Seminars	2,051

Student Hours by Programs 829,690

FPS	719,927
SPS	91,350
CDs	9,035
Seminars	9,378

Students by Discipline 34,327

Fire	7,497
EMS	7,248
ALS	2,197
Res	2,199
Mgmt	4,301
HazMat	2,525
Specialty	3,876
CDs	2,433
Seminars	2,051

Fabric Testing May Lead to Improved Turnout Gear

The Center for Firefighter Safety Research and Development along with the following partners; the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute, the Department of Fire Protection Engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Lion Apparel tested the Smart Firefighter Garments for burn mitigation and humidity control.

The test involved firefighters wearing full PPE that meets NFPA standards, one coat with Smart Garment material in the arms and the other coat without, while standing five to six feet from a controlled fire. Once subjects had exited the burn room, they rested, rehydrated, and completed a questionnaire about the performance of the coat and the effectiveness of the Smart Garment. The firefighters switched gear and conducted the experiments again.

The Smart Garment jacket had one layer of the material in the right arm and a double layer in the left arm which is a superelastic, shape memory nitinol wire that is shaped into rings and connected so that when the material is heated the wires “puff up.” An additional vapor space, in the arms of the jacket, keeps that part of the body cooler and able to withstand higher temperature fires for longer periods of time, thereby enhancing the protection of the firefighter.



Inaugural Incident Command Simulation Center Class

MFRI commenced classes in the Incident Command Simulation Center after two years of researching, planning, building, equipping, and training. Among the students that attended the inaugural class were many of those who labored to establish the Center.

Instructors conducted three exercises that ranged in difficulty from a living room fire in a small single-family home to a well-advanced basement fire in a large frame house to a serious top-floor fire in a garden apartment building. The realism of the situations created an interesting and stimulating environment complete with the stress of handling a "mayday" call from one of the interior crews. The input of all those who participated will continue to help shape the program offerings and the delivery methods.

In due course, MFRI will deliver many types and levels of incident management training to a variety of audiences. Approximately 60 scenarios are currently in use and more are being developed. This new training venue melds technology and time-tested management principles.





New/Revised MFRI Classes

Emergency Medical Responder

Emergency Medical Technician

Fire Inspector I

Fire Inspector II

Instructor I

Instructor II

Firefighter Survival and Rescue

Paramedic Transitional Refresher Course, Part I & Part II

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I

Simulation Center for Law Enforcement

